

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/WE-MCKINLEY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.) IT

SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENTIAL VISIT:

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TOAST BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE AT
PRESIDENT LEONE'S DINNER:

QUOTE: MR. PRESIDENT, MR. PRIME MINISTER, EXCELLENCIES AND
FREIDNS: I AM DELIGHTED TO BE WRITH YOU TODAY IN THE ETERNAL
CITY, A CENTER OF THE CIVILIZED WORLD SINCE ANCIENT ROMAN TIMES.
IT IS A PLEASURE AND AN HONOR TO STAND HERE TODAY IN THIS DISTINGU-
ISHED COMPANY AND IN THIS HISTORIC AND GRACIOUS PALACE. TO FIND
ONESELF AMONG ROME'S SPLENDORS INEVITABLY INSPIRES AWE AND
APPRECIATION... THIS KIND OF MAGNIFICENCE IS, SHALL WE SAY,
DIFFERENT FROM THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE SMALL TOWN IN MINNESOTA,
WHERE I WAS BORN.

IT IS BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES A FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE
TO OUR RELATIONS WITH ITALY AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC
ALLIANCE THAT HE HAS SENT ME ON THIS -- MY FIRST FOREIGN
MISSION AS VICE-PRESIDENT.

WE ARE HERE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND TO SEEK YOUR ADVICE, ON THE
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CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT WE FACE THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN
WORLD.

CENTRAL TO OUR THOUGHTS HAS BEEN THE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR STRONG
COOPERATION AMONG ALL NATO ALLIES, AND THE COMPELLING
REALITY THAT THE ECONOMIC FOTUNES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED WESTERN
DEMOCRACIES ARE INEVITABLY INTERTWINED.

ACCORDINGLY, IT HAS BEEN MOST BENEFICIAL TO HAVE DISCUSSED TODAY ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT MEETING, LATER THIS YEAR. AND I WAS ABLE TO REPORT IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT OUR OWN PLANS TO STIMULATE THE U.S. ECONOMY.

OUR PRESENCE HERE TODAY IS NOT SIMPLY A CEREMONIAL OCCASION.

WE ARE HERE BECAUSE OUR TIES AS NATIONS ARE PROFOUND AND OF LONG STANDING DURATION. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ITALIANS TO AMERICA HAVE ENRICHED OUR LIVES AND HELPED TO FORGE OUR VALUES AND INSTITUTIONS.

AS PEOPLE, WE SHARE A DEEP RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS; WE SHARE A TOLERANCE FOR DISSENT; WE SHARE A COMMITMENT TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE; WE SHARE AN APPRECIATION FOR DEMOCRATIC VALUES; TOGETHER WE SHALL NEVER CEASE OUR QUEST FOR A DURABLE PEACE WITH FREEDOM.

I AM OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES OF THE WEST HAVE THE HUMAN, SPIRITUAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES TO RESPOND TO THE DEMANDS OF OUR COMMON DESTINY.

IN THE COVERSATIONS WE HAD WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI WHEN HE VISITED WASHINGTON A FEW WEEKS AGO, AND AGAIN TODAY DURING OUR TALKS, I HAVE LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE PROBLEMS FACING ITALY. AND I MUST SAY THAT I ADMIRE THE MANNER IN WHICH ONE PRIME MINISTER HAS RESPONDED TO THESE CHALLENGES. THIS IS ENCOURAGING,
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FOR ALL OF US WHO VALUE THE ROLE OF ITALY IN THE WESTERN WORLD, AND WHO VALUE THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN PARTNERSHIP.

THIS DINNER, AND YOUR UNMATCHABLE HOSPITALITY, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THE WARMTH OF THE WELCOME I RECEIVED THIS AFTERNOON, SYMBOLIZE THE DEPTH OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

IN THIS SPIRIT I LIFT MY GLASS IN A TOAST, TO THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY AND TO OUR GROWING FRIENDSHIP IN THE YEARS AHEAD, TO PRESIDENT LEONE, TO PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI, AND TO THE GREAT ITALIAN PEOPLE. UNQUOTE.VOLPE

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